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SUBJECT Admiral Stansfield Turner

CAMILLE BOHANNON: President Carter today signed an Executive Order which gives tighter control over the nation's intelligence activities to CIA Director Stansfield Turner.

Mr. Carter signed it shortly before noon in the White House Cabinet Room amid reports that some Carter Administration officials want Turner fired. Those came in yesterday's editions of the Detroit "News," and they claimed that certain White House aides and Defense Secretary Harold Brown wanted Turner fired because he was having a bad effect on the morale of Central Intelligence Agency employees.

Reports indicate that some officials felt Turner had been unfair to CIA employees in his efforts to improve the public image of the agency.

Turner today commented only briefly on those reports.

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER: Since there is no fact behind the rumor, I will not grace it by commenting further on it.

I would only refer you to a marvelous quotation from Mark Twain on this subject. One morning he read the newspaper and found that it reported his death the previous day, to which he replied, "The reports of my demise are grossly exaggerated."

BOHANNON: Stansfield Turner.

The White House is also denying the reports that anyone there wanted Stansfield Turner fired.

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